

City of Lynchburg Code Sec. 26-72

It shall be unlawful for any person to deface or damage public or private property, by or through the application of graffiti.

Any person violating any section of this provision shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

City of Lynchburg Code Sec. 26-73

In the event graffiti is applied to any public property by a minor living with either or both parents, the City may institute an action and recover from the parents of the minor, or either of them, the costs for damages suffered by reason of the willful destruction of, or damage to, public property by the minor.

How does graffiti get cleaned up?

The Public Works Department is responsible for the removal of graffiti from public areas. The LPD, along with Public Works, partners with private property owners and other agencies to develop graffiti removal methods.

Individual property owners are ultimately responsible for seeing to the timely removal of graffiti on their property. The Police Department will continue to administer the notification of the affected property owners, and obtain their permission to access the property to assist in the removal of the graffiti.

The operational goal is to remove the graffiti within 24 hours (ideal) to 48 hours (acceptable) through the City's Suite Response notification at 856-2489.

Graffiti removal is integrated into the work schedule of the Public Works Teams on an as needed basis, with a standard of removal within 24 hours of notification or discovery. Quick response and removal has been very successful in discouraging repeat incidents at the same location.

Graffiti is EVERYONE'S Business!

We're in it together!

Lynchburg Police
Department

Graffiti Eradication Program



Lynchburg Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
805 Court Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504
434-455-6070



What is Graffiti?

Graffiti costs American communities more than \$8 billion per year. It hurts property values, drives away business, and sends the message that nobody cares about the community. Graffiti is everybody's business.

Graffiti is defined as writing, drawings or symbols applied to any surface without the consent of the property owner, authorized agent or designate.

Graffiti vandals use a variety of materials such as spray paint, crayons and permanent ink to deface property. Hobby knives are used to cause permanent damage to glass and other surfaces.

See Graffiti?

Call 856-2489

Where does graffiti crime occur?

Graffiti crime can occur anywhere. Some of the more popular targets include:

- Public and private buildings
- Newspaper vending boxes and utility boxes
- Street and city signs
- Parks, playgrounds & recreational facilities
- Bridges and overpasses
- Sidewalks and abandoned properties

How does graffiti affect your community?

Graffiti is a serious crime that impacts all members of our community. Graffiti is considered a "quality of life" crime and impacts our community in various ways:

- Property owners incur tremendous expense in removing graffiti
- Graffiti undermines a community's sense of security and safety
- Graffiti promotes an undesirable image of the city and reduces property value
- Creates the "Broken Windows Theory," whereas this type of criminal behavior, left unchecked, leads to the impression no one cares about the area. As a result, nuisance crimes lead to more serious crime.



How can you deter graffiti vandalism?

Tips for property owners:

- Plant vines, shrubs or thorny plants to limit access to walls.
- Increase lighting and visibility, considering motion sensors for any type of movement.
- Prevent access to rooftops and upper floors.
- Consider graffiti repellent paint and materials to protect surfaces from vandalism.
- Get involved in a Neighborhood Watch.
- Encourage neighbors to look out for each other.
- Report immediately for timely removal. This also helps deter repeat offenses.
- Choose paints and coatings to deter graffiti. Dark colors make graffiti harder to see. Anti-graffiti coatings are available as well. A sacrificial coating is one that can be easily removed if graffiti artists strike. A protective coating can be easily cleaned.
- Use good lighting to deter vandals from popular graffiti sites.

To report graffiti vandalism:



Call
856-CITY
856-(2489)